

Summer 2019: Additional Assignment for AP English Language & Composition

Due: Typed, printed out, and handed in on the first day of class.

Dear Students:

Welcome to AP Lang! It is an important and relevant course for the current times and for the rest of your lives! Because of the high level of skill we want to reach during the school year, this additional summer assignment is designed to prepare you in advance so we can hit the ground running. It is also important that you demonstrate the strong work ethic that will be required to succeed in the course.

*NOTE: This AP Lang Summer Assignment is **in addition to the Upper School Summer Reading Assignment for everyone.***

Enjoy your reading and perspective-building!

Sincerely,

Ms Maffei (lmaffei@lawrencewoodmere.org)

1. Required: Understand “Spin” [Graded Assessment]

Read [*unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation*](#) by Brooks Jackson & Kathleen Hall Jamieson (ISBN: 978-1400065660) and **create a one-page list of the most important notes and talking points.** What points or topics interested you? Intrigued you? Were particularly illuminating? Can you apply the points to specific examples from today?

2. Optional But Strongly Suggested [for extra credit]

Choose a regular columnist from any newspaper. (You will usually find them in the op-ed sections.) Read at least four columns by this same columnist. Then **write one page that answers the following questions:** What patterns do you see in the columnist’s writing, such as similar themes, similar writing, similar strategies to be persuasive? Explain and give examples. What effects do this columnist’s choices have on you as a reader? Who do you think is this columnist’s intended audience -- in other words, whom do they seem to be writing to? Does this columnist succeed in persuading you? Why or why not?

3. Also Optional But Strongly Suggested [for extra credit]

Keep abreast of current events. Not just the big headlines, but also the “smaller” stories and less-reported things that are happening locally and around the world. In online newspapers, search under “local” or “world” or for specific places. Listen to [NPR](#), watch the [PBS NewsHour](#), and/or watch documentaries. Try the [Under-told Stories Project](#). *TIP: Make it a habit to read or listen to something new or different each day, even if just for a few minutes.* Then **write one page describing something you learned that you did not know about and answer the following questions:** From what sources did you learn about this? What were your preconceived notions about this topic, if any? What did you learn that surprised you? What questions are you left with? Where do you think you might find the answers?